

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Philadelphia, June 10, 1796.

By virtue of the Act entitled "An Act making further provision for expenses attending the intercourse of the United States with foreign nations;" and to continue in force the act entitled "An Act providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations," passed on the 30 of May in the year 1796.

I do hereby authorize and empower you, by yourself or any other person or persons to borrow on behalf of the United States, of the Bank of the Ud. States or any other body or bodies politic, person or persons, any sum not exceeding in the whole Three

hundred and twenty four thousand, five hundred and thirty nine Dollars and six Cents; and to make or cause to be made for that purpose such contract or contracts as shall be necessary and for the interest of the said States.⁹⁵

95. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, July 6, 1796.

Sir: When the letter herewith enclosed, dated the 4th. instant was written in answer to yours of the 28th. Ulto; part of it, as you will perceive, was dictated under the impression of much hesitation and doubt; for I am not fond of rectifying Legislative mistakes by Executive Acts. I determined however to take the Attorney General opinion on the case:⁴⁹ resolving,

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if it accorded with those which had been sent me, to give the Act you forwarded, my signature.

For this purpose I requested that his opinion might be *fully* stated to me in *writing* and delivered at Alexandria on the 4th. where I had promised to be at the celebration of

49. The Attorney General's opinion, dated July 4, is in the *Washington Papers*.

the Anniversary of Independence; that I might, by the Post of next day, or rather the Mail of that evening, if his opinion had not a tendency to increase my own doubts, forward the Act to you. Knowing, that neither time nor opportunity would be allowed at a crowded meeting, to write, I prepared my letter in the morning, before I left home, on the supposition of a concurrence; and in that case, that I might have nothing to do but to sign and enclose the Act; but his opinion being adverse to this (as you will see by the enclosure, which I request may be returned to me) I declined doing it; and have desired him to draught something anew. This, when it comes to hand, (wch. I expected would have been in time for this days Post) shall be sent. 50

[C.H.S.]

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1796.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th. Ulto. with its enclosures, was received by the Mail on friday. I wanted no delay in the Commissioning of Mr. Jno. Davis, to be Attorney for the District of Massachusetts; if to you, or those who were better acquainted with his professional knowledge (before he embarked in the Comptrollership) than I am, thought them competent to the duties thereof.

That an entire Section of a Bill which

50. The later opinion is dated July 7, and is also in the *Washington Papers*.

had passed both Houses of Congress should be omitted in copying of it; and that such omission should have escaped the Committee of Enrollment; is a circumstance so singular in its nature as scarcely to have a parallel.³³ being desirous however, of carrying the *intentions* of the Legislature into effect, I have, though I confess not willingly, endeavoured to supply the defect by the Executive Act which is herewith enclosed. The consequences that might result from delay, have produced this Act on my part; otherwise, as its operation is to be Exterior I should have hesitated longer, before the signature was given; if at all. ³⁴

By the last Mail, I received a Letter from the Governor of Pennsylvania, requesting "that I would direct such cooperative measures, on the part of the Officers of the United States, as may effectually counteract the danger, which is apprehended from Vessels holding an intercourse with the shores of New Jersey, in evasion of the Quarantine prescribed under the authority of the Laws of this State." I expected, from what passed previous to my leaving Philadelphia, that circular orders had issued, long since, to the Collectors of the different Ports; and to the Officers commanding the fortifications of our Harbours, to afford *such* aid, agreeably to the Act of Congress relative to Quarantine. As there are two letters from the Governor on the same subject, I shall send both of

33. Wolcott had written (June 28): "A novel and very perplexing question has arisen in respect to the Act of Congress of the last Session for the relief and protection of american seamen. It seems that an entire section of the bill as it passed the House of Representatives, has been omitted in the Act, although the Act has still a reference to what was struck out. by this defect the fourth section of the existing Law is deemed incapable of being executed. After much consideration and different views of the subject; and pursuant to the advice and opinion of Council, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and myself have thought that the object of the Law can be properly attained by the interposition of the Executive. The form of an act which is proposed to be sent to the Collectors of

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the Customs has been therefore prepared and is herewith submitted to the President's decision." Wolcott's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*

34. No draft, or copy, of this Executive Order is now found in the Washington Papers. A copy of the Treasury circular to Collectors of Customs, July 19, 1796, containing the Executive's general instructions in the matter is in *Treasury Circulars*, 1789–96, in the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress.

them by this days Post, to the Secretary of State; and desire that if any thing needful, remains to be done, that orders to that end may issue immediately.

[C.H.S.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, July 11, 1796.

Sir: Your Letter of the 5th instant came duly to hand. The preparatory arrangements for the sale of the Lands, remaining unsold, in the seven ranges of Townships in the No Western territory being complete; I think from the accounts given of George Wallace, he would be a suitable character for the trust of superintending the sales at Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Governor or secretary of the North W. Territory, and desire he may be empowered accordingly. Genl. John Nevill is, I conceive, a fit person to receive the money proceeding from the sales, and that from his *other* public employment he *ought* to do it upon more œconomical terms, and if he will do it, let him be appointed thereto.⁶⁷

67. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

Mount Vernon, July 13, 1796.

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Sir: The contract entered into between William Allibone, Superintendent of the Light House establishment for the Bay of Delaware, and Garret Hulsecamp, for placing and managing the floating Beacons and Buoys in the said Bay, of Delaware, is returned approved.

It is to be presumed that these contracts are not more frequent than necessary;

yet, as they are so often repeated; and are heavy in the aggregate, for the above mentioned Bay; it may not be inexpedient to make indirect enquiries whether these frequent renewals are the result of *real* necessity. And to what account the old materials are carried.

[C.H.S.]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

United States, September 6, 1796.

Having considered your Report of the fifth instant, I do hereby authorise you to take suitable and legal measures for procuring

by contract or otherwise as shall appear to be most for the public Interest, four Revenue Cutters, to be employed on the Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina Stations. And I do hereby direct you to cause the Revenue Cutters belonging to the United States on the Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina Stations to be sold at public Auction, and to cause the proceeds of such Sales to be paid into the Treasury of the United States; and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.⁶⁹

69. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.